

## Minutes of Regular Board Meeting - Public Hearing

### The Board of Trustees

### La Vernia Independent School District

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A Regular Board Meeting - Public Hearing of the Board of Trustees of La Vernia ISD was held Monday, December 15, 2025, beginning at 6:30 PM in the High School Cafeteria, 225 Bluebonnet Road, La Vernia, TX 78121.

#### Attendance:

Jeff Towns:	Absent
Ryan Doege:	Present
Drew Herley:	Present
Stewart Krisch:	Present
Jimmy McFadin:	Present
Eryn Pierdolla:	Present
Shawn Strey:	Present

#### **I. Call to Order, Quorum, Pledge, and Invocation – 6:30PM**

*As Stated on the Notice of Regular Meeting, the Board may convene into Closed Session at any time they deem necessary, under any applicable provision of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, including the provision permitting closed session consultation with legal counsel.*

*The Board President may elect to address any items listed on the Agenda in any sequence.*

President Shawn Strey called the meeting to order at 6:30PM, declared a quorum present and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Franceska Rodriguez led in the Invocation.

#### **II. Recognition**

(1) Tennis Teams

Mr. Noah Recker, Head Tennis Coach

(2) Varsity Volleyball Team

Ms. Danielle Coleman, Head Volleyball Coach

(3) La Vernia Education Foundation - Employee Solicited Grants

Dr. Hensley Cone, Superintendent

#### **III. Public Comment**

No one signed up to speak.

#### **IV. Board Member Welcome and Remarks**

Trustee Jimmy McFadin made the following remarks.

- Reflected on the semester, emphasizing the theme of "excellence" seen across academics, athletics (FFA, 4-H, UIL), and extracurricular activities.
- Praised the unparalleled support from teachers, staff, parents, and the community, highlighting how

quickly the community mobilized to support teams during their playoff runs.

- Noted the district is expected to rank number two in the upcoming Lone Star Cup rankings.
- Concluded by wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

## **V. Superintendent Remarks**

Dr. Cone made the following remarks.

- Reflected on a strong semester:
  - Volleyball advanced to the State Championship game for the first time.
  - Football reached the State Semi-Finals for only the second time in school history.
  - Tennis earned Area Champion honors.
  - Boys' and girls' cross country: second in District; advanced to Regionals.
  - LV Mighty Bear Marching Band advanced to UIL Area competition (Calallen).
  - ROTC (in collaboration with Floresville) posted colors at a football game for the first time in LVISD history.
  - New wing opened at the Primary campus; Intermediate campus open house tentatively set for January 8<sup>th</sup> pending the completion of construction over the holiday break.
- Construction update:
  - Major underground contingencies (sewer, water, roofing adjustments, unexpected fiber optics) largely addressed.
  - Moving into a more stable phase with fewer unknowns.
  - Plan to work with the facilities committee to reassess budget/contingencies to ensure commitments are met and funds are optimized for student benefit as the project progresses.
- Emphasized continuous improvement and leveraging opportunities to enhance district performance metrics.
- Appreciation extended to teachers, staff, campus leaders, families, and community; wished all a safe and restful holiday break.

## **VI. Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Report - Public Hearing**

Ms. Belinda Raindl, Chief Financial Officer

- A public hearing was held for the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) report. Chief Financial Officer Belinda Randall presented the report. The district received a "superior" score of 94. It was noted that while this is a great score, the long-term debt from the recent bond was a known factor that prevented a higher score. Board members discussed leveraging points to improve the score in the future, aiming for 95 or higher. A concern was raised about potential future financial adjustments, and staff are working with auditors and financial advisors to mitigate any negative impacts.

(1) Public Comment with regard to the FIRST Report

No one spoke regarding the FIRST report.

## **VII. Discussion and REPORT Items**

(1) FCCLA Presentation

Miss Adelyn Scull, State VP of Projects and Miss Franceska Rodriguez, Region V VP of Records

- Highlights:
  - Capital Leadership trip to Washington, D.C. fostered leadership, civic responsibility, and understanding of policy impacts on families and education.
  - Visits to U.S. Capitol, Lincoln Memorial, and Washington Monument reinforced FCCLA values: leadership, service, responsibility, integrity.
  - Met with Congresswoman Monica De La Cruz's staff; advocated for continued Perkins

funding and support for CTE programs.

- Gratitude expressed to board, advisors, and administrators; trip is a rare, formative opportunity.
- Board praised the students' excellence and competitive achievement at State/Region leadership levels.

## (2) City of La Vernia Drainage Project

Morgen Gore, SW Engineers

- Presenters: Interim City Administrator Xavier Millan; Engineer Morgen Gore (Southwest Engineers).
- Project scope:
  - Extend city drainage improvements from FM 1346 through the city park to US 87, integrating school property.
  - Realign flow from FM 1346 culvert to the district's southern property line (near Dollar General), diverting water away from the central field.
  - City to fund construction of a grass-lined drainage channel; district to maintain post-construction.
  - Minor channel proposed to route detention pond outflow south of city baseball fields into the city's park channel (concrete-bottom through park).
- Technical details:
  - School-side channel proposed as grass with ~10-foot bottom, 3:1 side slopes; sized for 25-year storm.
  - Existing internal road culvert to remain; defined flow path across city park to be handled by new park channel and culverts under San Antonio Street to US 87.
  - Opportunity to reclaim central field area for future use (e.g., parking or facilities), though fill may be needed for elevation.
  - Channel design can be adjusted to handle future runoff (e.g., additional parking).
- Timeline and agreements:
  - Target construction start in summer; dependent on final easements between San Antonio and US 87.
  - City proposes a drainage easement and interlocal agreement; drafts expected within a month.
- Board discussion:
  - Clarified channel materials (grass vs. concrete), maintenance responsibilities, potential impacts during construction, and flow behavior from the detention pond.
  - Requested detailed plans for review; no action taken at this meeting.

## (3) Bond 2023 Monthly Construction Update

Mr. Christian Cortes, Senior Project Manager, Bartlett Cocke and Mr. Alexander Ragland, Assistant Project Manager, Bartlett Cocke

## VIII. Discussion and ACTION Items

### (1) Pending Bond Payments over \$50,000

Ms. Belinda Raindl, Chief Financial Officer and Ms. Catherine Blackler, Senior Project Manager, AG|CM

A. AGCM Inv 12996 (\$71,061.25)

B. Bartlett Cocke PA 14 (\$ 2,069,946.00)

Ryan Doege moved to approve Bond Payments over \$50,000 as presented. Jimmy McFadin seconded.

This motion, made by Ryan Doege and seconded by Jimmy McFadin, Passed.

Ryan Doege: Yea, Drew Herley: Yea, Stewart Krisch: Yea, Jimmy McFadin: Yea, Eryn Pierdolla:

Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea

(2) Pending Bond Proposal Requests

Ms. Catherine Blackler, Senior Project Manager, AG|CM

A. RCO0052R2 - PR#15 - JHS Area K Band Hall Raise

- Catherine Blackler from AGCM addressed a proposal regarding the Junior High band hall. She requested to withdraw the item from the agenda due to a design misunderstanding related to Tectum panels that could potentially increase the project's cost.
- The board agreed to postpone the decision and discussed the possibility of a special meeting to approve it once accurate numbers are available to avoid delays.

**IX. Discussion and REPORT Items**

(1) Monthly Financial Report

(2) Safety, Security and EOP Update

Mr. Howard Wilen, Director of Safety and Security

- Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) was updated, submitted, and approved by the Texas School Safety Center on November 10, with the active threat annex reviewed and compliant.
  - Participation in Wilson County Sheriff's biannual safety meeting and flood tabletop exercise; focus on reunification and evacuation planning and strengthening interagency partnerships.
  - District School Safety and Security Committee met with strong attendance from local agencies (county emergency management, game warden, constable, local police).
  - Intruder detection audits: 50% complete; both elementary campuses inspected with no findings, consistent with the last three years.
  - Ongoing daily door checks beyond mandated logging; rapid maintenance responses to issues.
  - Three-year district safety audit underway; audit team being assembled. Timeline: board report targeted by April, submission due before September 2026.
- Board emphasized strengthening relationships with county sheriff's office and preparedness for unexpected events (e.g., floods).
- Continue campus engagement and guardian program feedback gathering.

**X. Discussion and ACTION Items**

(1) Consent Agenda: Items to be approved in one all encompassing motion. If discussion is desired on a particular item, it will be removed from the consent agenda

A. Minutes of the November 10, 2025 Meeting

B. Minutes of the November 18, 2025 Meeting

C. 2024-25 Financial Audit

Jimmy McFadin moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ryan Doege seconded. This motion, made by Jimmy McFadin and seconded by Ryan Doege, Passed.

Ryan Doege: Yea, Drew Herley: Yea, Stewart Krisch: Yea, Jimmy McFadin: Yea, Eryn Pierdolla: Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea

(2) Special Education Staffing Request

Ms. Johanna Hagen, Director of Special Education

Ryan Doege moved to recommend 1 (one) paraprofessional position at the Junior High and 1(one)

Registered Behavior Therapist at the Intermediate Campus. Drew Herley seconded. This motion, made by Ryan Doege and seconded by Drew Herley, Passed.

Ryan Doege: Yea, Drew Herley: Yea, Stewart Krisch: Yea, Jimmy McFadin: Yea, Eryn Pierdolla: Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea

(3) Walsh Gallegos Retainer for Legal Services

Dr. Hensley Cone, Superintendent

Ryan Doege moved to approve the Membership in the Walsh Gallegos' Retainer Program. Jimmy McFadin seconded. This motion, made by Ryan Doege and seconded by Jimmy McFadin, Passed.

Ryan Doege: Yea, Drew Herley: Yea, Stewart Krisch: Yea, Jimmy McFadin: Yea, Eryn Pierdolla: Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea

**XI. Adjourn – 7:45PM**

Jimmy McFadin moved to adjourn the meeting. Stewart Krisch seconded. This motion, made by Jimmy McFadin and seconded by Stewart Krisch, Passed.

Ryan Doege: Yea, Drew Herley: Yea, Stewart Krisch: Yea, Jimmy McFadin: Yea, Eryn Pierdolla: Yea, Shawn Strey: Yea